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Farm Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Public Affairs

Radio-TV Division

Washington, D.C. 20250

(202) 720-4330

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October 23, 1992

TRISODIUM PHOSPHATE IN POULTRY PROCESSING -- USDA announced that it will allow trisodium phosphate (TSP) to be used in the processing of poultry. Tests show that TSP reduces levels of bacteria that could cause foodbourne illnesses. "USDA has approved TSP as being safe and for immediate use, moving quickly to get the benefits of new science and technology to the American consumer," said Dr. H. Russell Cross, Administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. The TSP process involves putting poultry through a TSP solution near the end of processing operations and can be adapted to existing equipment in poultry plants. Contact: Jim Greene (202) 720-0314.

GENETIC RESOURCES COUNCIL ESTABLISHED -- Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced the appointment of a National Genetic Resources Advisory Council which will provide guidance on the department's National Genetic Resources Program. The program governs all aspects of genetic material important to food and forestry, including genetic resources of plants, farm animals, insects, farm-raised fish and microbiological organisms. The nine member council includes leaders in science, public policy, trade, international development, law and management. The program will be administered through USDA's Agricultural Research Service, and a data base for genetic resources is being established at the USDA National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland. Contact: Doris Stanley (301) 504-8767.

"FLAVR SAVR" TOMATO RULED SAFE -- USDA announced it will no longer regulate the genetically modified "Flavr Savr" tomato or its descendants. "Flavr Savr" is the trademark for a tomato developed to decrease the rate of fruit ripening and improve flavor. It was being regulated because it was developed using DNA from certain plant pathogens. Now that "Flavr Savr" tomatoes and their descendants have been determined not to present a plant pest risk, they can be moved or released into the U.S. without a USDA permit. This ruling went into effect October 19, 1992. Contact: Cynthia Eck (301) 436-5931.

NEW COLOR ON WESTERN RANGES -- Researchers in USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Colorado have found an alfalfa variety with yellow flowers, instead of the usual purple, that has drought tolerance. This variety could give ranchers new options for growing the nutritious forage crop without irrigation. It also increases the odds that ranchers can someday grow the variety to graze livestock in areas that have little rainfall. The yellow-flowered seedlings grow about as vigorously as most commercial varieties of the common purple-flowered alfalfa. However, researchers point out that western growers who irrigate alfalfa, either as hay for their animals or as a cash crop, would get better harvests from purple-flowered alfalfa. The parent plant seeds are descendants of yellow alfalfa found in the former Soviet Union, and supplied by the agency's Plant Introduction Station in Ames, Iowa. Contact: Dennis Senft (510) 559-6068.

ORLANDO TO HOUSE NEW PLANT INSPECTION STATION -- USDA is scheduled to open its largest plant inspection station at Orlando International Airport this week. The station includes state-of-the-art equipment such as fumigation chambers for quarantine treatments and an incinerator for disposal of prohibited plant and animal material. Orlando was selected because an increasing amount of nursery stock, cut flowers and foliage are imported through Florida, and because Florida is the country's largest producer and exporter of tropical foliage. The second largest of USDA's 16 plant inspection stations is located in Miami. Contact: John Rodriguez (301) 436-3254.

YO-YO DIETING MAY CAUSE BONE LOSS -- According to studies conducted by Agricultural Research Service scientists, people who lose and gain weight in a yo-yo fashion lose bone mass. In a controlled, five-month study, subjects lost bone even though they exercised regularly and consumed recommended amounts of calcium. Biochemical tests showed that when caloric intake was cut in half, bone breakdown rose and bone formation fell. The scientists recommend that when trying to reduce calories and fat, choose non-fat dry milk, skim milk, skim milk cheeses, low-fat milk low-fat cheeses and non-fat and low-fat yogurts. They contain just as much calcium and other vitamins and minerals as whole-milk products. Contact: Beth Reames (504) 388-6701.

YEAR OF THE GULF OF MEXICO -- Congress, by Public Law 102-178, has designated June 1992 to July 1993 as the "Year of the Gulf of Mexico," authorizing President Bush to issue a proclamation in observance of this year. The theme is "America's Sea: Keep it Shining." Many activities have been planned to increase citizens' awareness of the value of the Gulf, as well as how to preserve environmental conditions necessary for plants and animals to live and grow. Contact: Karen Overstreet (504) 388-3329.

FORECAST FOR RECORD CROPS -- USDA's Economic Research Service is calling for a record corn crop, the second largest rice crop, and the largest soybean crop since 1982. Cotton output is expected to decrease. Turkey production continues to rise with Thanksgiving approaching, yet the turkey market is still facing stiff competition from large supplies of pork. The U.S. inventory of hogs and pigs is up from 1991 and 1990 inventories, meaning more record-breaking pork production. Contact: Barbara Claffey (202) 219-0313.

USDA FAX OFFERS -- USDA radio & TV programming information and the Farm Broadcasters Letter can be obtained on facsimile machine by using USDA's Ag NewsFAX. Use the telephone connected to your FAX machine to call (202) 690-3944. At the voice prompts press 1, press 4, to receive:

Farm Broadcasters Letter	-	press 9200
Radio Newsline Information	-	press 9250
TV contents billboard	-	press 9260
TV billboard and scripts	-	press 9270

then press #, press 3, and press the start button on your FAX machine.

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FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA # 1846 -- Brenda Curtis reports on a unique program in Arizona that empowers local people to create and change public policy. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)

CONSUMER TIME # 1328 -- School breakfast on the rise; an even safer chicken; meat and poultry hotline; the food guide pyramid; a drying oil for paint. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)

AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1837 -- USDA news highlights; more on crop insurance; soybean outlook; ag trade surplus grows; reviving U.S. tung oil production. (Weekly reel of news features.)

NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1543 -- Researchers recognized; natural sprout inhibitors; tuber troubles; controlling dry rot; low-cost natural compounds. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Wednesday, October 28, catfish production; Thursday, October 29, world tobacco situation; Friday, October 30, ag prices, world cocoa situation, world livestock situation; Monday, November 2, horticultural exports, African food needs; Tuesday, November 3, crop/weather update. **These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our Newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup. Please don't let the lack of a story listing keep you from calling.**

DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE (202) 488-8358 or 8359.
Material changed at 5 p.m., ET, each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE

FEATURES -- Pat O'Leary reports on the Scientist of the Year Award and Lynn Wyvill reports on parasitic worm immunity in cattle.

ACTUALITIES -- USDA chief meteorologist Norton Strommen on the latest weather and crop developments; USDA economist Barbara Claffey on turkey and pork production; USDA economist Joel Greene on the U.S. agricultural trade surplus and trade with Mexico, and USDA economist Stan Daberkow on agricultural inputs.

UPCOMING FEATURES -- DeBoria Janifer reports on sugarcane research; Pat O'Leary reports on the history of the USDA Secretary's portrait and Lynn Wyvill reports on starch encapsulated pesticides.

EVERY OTHER WEEK -- Agriculture Update, five minutes of USDA farm program information in "news desk" format with B-roll.

Available on Satellite Galaxy 6, channel 23, audio 6.2 or 6.8, downlink frequency 4160 MHz.: Thursdays from 7:30 - 7:45 p.m., ET, Saturdays from 10 - 10:30 a.m., ET, and Mondays from 8 - 8:30 a.m., ET.

OFFMIKE

FARM PROGRESS DAYS...Sept. 15-17 near Eau Claire, WI, was actually a one-day event, says Lesley Leonard (Goetz Farm Radio Network, Marshfield, WI). Heavy thunderstorms produced a sea of mud that cancelled the final two days. The World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI, September 30-October 5, was conducted according to schedule with 60 countries represented. Lesley broadcast live at both events. He says a World Dairy Center is being planned on 40 acres near Madison, and a World Beef Expo is slated for April in Madison.

GOOD CORN CROP...was the bottom line stated by Bill Mason (WGEL, Greenville, IL). Some areas of soybeans and milo could be hurt by the mid-October freeze. Bill says producers wish the prices were as good as their crop.

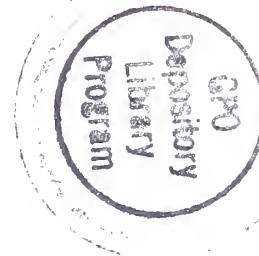
BEST QUAIL CROP IN YEARS...says Bill McReynolds (WOAI, San Antonio, TX). The season lasts from Oct. 31 through January. Lease hunting is an important income producer for landowners. The pecan harvest is good, but some areas received too much rain this spring reducing nut quality.

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1st ANNUAL...K-600 Ag Show is scheduled for the Jamestown Civic Center in early February says Ole Olson (KSJB, Jamestown, ND). 100 booths will be available to exhibitors. Ole says the response is so positive the booths should be sold by Thanksgiving. Ole says the sunflower harvest is producing lower yields, but the oil content is higher than last year. The sugarbeet harvest is underway. The crop received a hard freeze in late October which increases the sugar content.

SHORTAGE OF STORAGE SPACE...for the corn crop is a major concern of producers, says Dewey Nelson (KRVN, Lexington, NE). Other items having producer's interest include a vote in November on the personal property tax system in the state. It is proposed that farm inventory and breeding stock be taxed.

FARM CITY WEEK...is Nov. 20 through Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Day. Have you scheduled any special programs or interviews to observe the Week?

Vic Powell
VIC POWELL
Chief, Radio and TV Division